seigniorage at a rate to be fixed per each tree to be felled and that facilities may be afforded to them to remove wood from areas usually worked by them.

Reply of Government.—Recorded. The existing rules are of long standing and convenient.

SUBJECT No. 163.

Free grazing of cattle, etc., in State Forests.

Messrs. Syed Hussain Saheb, Mohamad Imam Sab and Sankappa, Tarikere taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The area of the District Forests allowed for the use of the ryots for firewood and timber for agricultural implements having been reduced by including portions of them in the State Forests, the ryots are not only inconvenienced but their cattle also have not sufficient grazing lands. It is therefore requested that ryots may be allowed to remove firewood and timber, free of cost, from all State Forests for their agricultural implements and that free grazing may also be allowed to their cattle in such forests.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be done.

SUBJECT No. 164.

Facilities to the ryots for making agricultural implements.

Mr. Bhishto Virupaksha Nadigar, Sorab taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Some villages have not been allotted any district forests, while for others the areas allotted as district forests do not contain any trees. In such cases the ryots had the privilege of fetching the wood required for their agricultural implements, etc., from the nearest forests. As the reservation of these forests acts prejudicially to their interests, it is prayed that the ryots of these villages may, as heretofore, be allowed the privilege of fetching wood required for their agricultural implements and firewood for their domestic use. This hardship is greatly felt near the Bettadakunte and the Talegadde State Forests.

Reply of Government.—A report will be called for from the Deputy Commissioner to see if any relief is necessary.

SUBJECT No. 165.

Free grant of large bamboos.

Messrs. Srinivasa Dikshit, Shikarpur taluk; and Bhavani Rao, Shikarpur Municipality

Summary of discussion.—(1) The free grant of large bamboos promised during the last year's meeting has not yet been given effect to. It is prayed that early orders may be passed in the matter.

(2) Large bamboos which have seeded may be granted to the ryots free of charge or at a seignior ag of 4 annas per cart-load.

Reply of Government.—Order will be issued extending the concession to the Shimoga and Shikarpur taluks.

SUBJECT No. 166.

Grant of thorns to ryots for agricultural purposes.

Messrs. Srinivasa Dikshit, Shikarpur taluk; and Bhavani Rao, Shikarpur Municipality

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Bamboo thorns may be granted either free of charge or at 4 annas per cart-load instead of at the present rate of 8 annas, to the ryots, as they are required for hedging sugar-cane fields. The charge now is 4 rupees per hundred and it is very heavy.

(*b*) Thorns are required every year by agriculturists for fencing purposes. *Thare*, *Byala* and other thorny

plants are abundant only in State Forests and Amrut Mahal Kavals. Permission may kindly be given to get them from the said reserved area, free of charge.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) The charge will be reduced to rupees two per hundred.

(*b*) Cannot be done.

SUBJECT No. 167.

Relief to persons whose houses are destroyed by accidental fire.

(1) Mr. C. Subba Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(1) The rules now in force provide for the free grant of building materials to agriculturists whose houses are destroyed by accidental fire from the district forests, of a value not exceeding the amount of one year's kandayam payable by them, but do not provide for any sort of relief to non-agriculturists whose houses are similarly destroyed. The existing rules may be modified so as to empower Deputy Commissioners to grant materials of the value of Rs. 25 to poor persons who are not agriculturists.

The free grants of wood and bamboos now made to persons, whose houses are destroyed by accidental fire, scarcely suffice for the construction of thatched houses. To enable ryots who desire to construct substantial tiled houses in lieu of those destroyed by fire, it is prayed that a sufficient quantity of good wood may be granted to them and the cost thereof recovered in ten years.

(2) Messrs. C. Vamana Rao and Nadig Subba Rao, Nagar taluk.

(2) The present mode of granting relief to persons whose houses are destroyed by accidental fires occupies much time in correspondence for various reasons. It is desirable to empower the Amildars to grant materials of a value not exceeding Rs. 20 to the sufferers to afford them timely relief. Information regarding the materials actually granted may be obtained from the Amildars subsequently.

(3) Mr. Bhaskar Rao, Sorab taluk.

(3) Amildars should be empowered to grant, on their own authority, materials of a value of Rs. 25 from the district forests to persons whose houses are destroyed by accidental fire.

(4) Messrs. Putte Gowda, Channapatna taluk; and C. R Nanjundayya, Channapatna Municipality.

(4) The existing rule for the free grant of forest materials to the inhabitants of villages destroyed by fire accidents, is applicable only to kandayam-paying ryots to the extent of the kandayam paid by them. Mohatarfa tax-payers and ryots paying small revenues receive only insignificantly small quantities of materials which could be of no use to them. Five rupees worth of materials may therefore be fixed as the minimum to be given to such persons. Also all the villagers affected may be given rations for the first two days.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered. It should be possible to delegate to Amildars power up to a limit of money grant, the action taken being reported with necessary details.